

(19)



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(11)

EP 1 445 207 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention
of the grant of the patent:
12.10.2005 Bulletin 2005/41

(51) Int Cl.7: **B65D 41/34**

(21) Application number: **04075363.4**

(22) Date of filing: **04.02.2004**

(54) **Screw cap with safety ring of improved reliability**

Schraubverschluss mit Sicherheitsring

Bouchon à vis avec bague de sécurité

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PT RO SE SI SK TR**

(30) Priority: **07.02.2003 IT MI20030220**

(43) Date of publication of application:
11.08.2004 Bulletin 2004/33

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Description

[0001] The present invention concerns a screw cap with safety ring of improved reliability.

[0002] To close containers of different type, various kinds of closing devices have been developed over time.

[0003] In particular, closing devices equipped with safety elements, which prevent a fraudulent refilling or removal of the product enclosed in the container have been achieved.

[0004] Generally, the container is provided with a dispensing mouth serving as a conveyor element. The dispensing mouth, externally threaded, is closed with a closing device such as a covering screw cap.

[0005] The cap is connected to one its lower parts by frangible bridge elements, whose integrity is a guarantee that the package has not been opened: for this reason such lower part is called a safety ring.

[0006] It is important that these frangible bridge elements remain intact until the end user endeavours to break them in order to open the screw cap and thus access the fluid present in the container for the first time.

[0007] This may not take place, as some of these bridge elements may break in the processes between the moulding of the screw cap and its assembly on the dispensing mouth of the container.

[0008] In particular, the screw caps are generally produced in a moulding plant and are subsequently transported to another plant where the filling and closing of the containers actually takes place.

[0009] During the transport, the caps are likely to be subjected to substantially radial squashing and deformation, which may cause the breaking of some bridge element. A careful selection phase is therefore necessary before the assembly of the screw cap on the filled containers, if it is wished to avoid the risk of supplying the end user with containers with damaged caps.

[0010] In addition, the actual assembly operation of the screw caps on the filled containers causes a certain stress on the cap and safety ring, such that the breaking of some bridge element may occur, which among other things is not detectable in a rapid and economical manner.

[0011] The object of the present invention is therefore to overcome the aforementioned drawbacks and in particular to make a screw cap with safety ring of improved reliability that minimises the possibility of inopportunist breaking bridge elements, either during the transport stage or during the assembly of the cap on the container.

[0012] Another object of the present invention is to make a screw cap with safety ring of improved reliability that may be easily assembled on the container.

[0013] A further object of the present invention is to make a particularly simple and functional screw cap with safety ring of improved reliability, also with relatively-contained moulding costs.

[0014] These and other objectives according to the present invention are attained by making a screw cap

with safety ring of improved reliability as described in claim 1. A cap according to the preamble of claim 1 is known from document US-A-5 273 173.

[0015] Further characteristics are provided in the following claims.

[0016] The characteristics and advantages of a screw cap with safety ring of improved reliability according to the present invention will be made more evident by the following exemplifying and non-limiting description concerning the attached schematic drawing in which:

figure 1 is a partially-sectioned, elevated side view of a screw cap with safety ring of improved reliability, according to the present invention.

[0017] With reference to figure 1, a screw tap is exhibited, entirely indicated with 10, with a safety ring 12 of improved reliability.

[0018] In the illustrated example, according to the present invention, the safety ring 12, of substantially cylindrical crown shape, is set in place below the screw tap 10 itself and its upper end is precisely connected to a lower end of screw cap 10 itself by way of frangible bridge elements 14.

[0019] The screw cap 10 is clearly internally provided with a threading 16 and has at least one dragging tooth 18 lower down: generally they are more than one, preferably distributed in a uniform manner along the circumference.

[0020] Corresponding with the dragging teeth 18, recesses 20 are provided on the upper part of the safety ring 12 for the teeth 18 themselves.

[0021] More precisely, the dragging teeth 18 have a slanted side 22, with respect to the axis of cap 10, while the other side 24 is substantially parallel to the axis of cap 10.

[0022] The recesses 20 have a slanted side 23, with respect to the axis of the cap 10 with a slope approximately equal to that of the slanted side 22 of the dragging teeth 18, while the other side 25 is substantially parallel to the axis of cap 10. The dimensions of the recesses 20 are larger than those of the dragging teeth 18, such that when the cap 10 is made, connected with the safety ring 12 by the bridge elements 14, there exists a clearance between the dragging teeth 18 and the grooves 20.

[0023] Below the cap 10, or above the safety ring 12, a spacing element 26 is also provided. Generally such spacing elements 26 are uniformly distributed along the circumference.

[0024] The safety ring 12 is provided with, at an internal lower end, with an annular appendage 30. The appendage 30 has a frustoconical shape with lower, broader base, such broader base joined to the lower end of the safety ring's cylindrical crown.

[0025] The slope of the appendage 30 side surfaces with respect to the safety ring 12 axis is low, such that the recesses 20 of the safety ring 12 are located a short

radial distance from the external side surface of the appendage 30, the height of the frustocone of the appendage 30 being approximately equal to that of the cylindrical crown of the ring 12.

[0026] It should be pointed out how the bridge elements 14 connect the cap 10 to an upper end of the cylindrical crown of the safety ring 12 and are preferably distributed in a uniform manner along the circumference.

[0027] The above-described shape of the safety ring 12 allows the production, for example using a mould provided with internal movement, of a screw cap 10 connected only through the frangible bridge elements 14. In fact, the dragging teeth 18 remain disjoined both from the cylindrical crown of the safety ring 12 and the appendage 30.

[0028] The operation and most specific characteristics of the screw cap 10 with safety ring 12 of improved reliability according to the invention are clear from the above description with reference to the figure, and in brief is the following.

[0029] The screw cap 10 is produced by plastics moulding.

[0030] The connection elements 14 between cap 10 and the cylindrical crown of the safety ring 12 are able to quite sufficiently resist axial and radial stress.

[0031] Regarding axial stress, the spacing elements 26 prevent an excessive approach between cap 10 and the cylindrical crown of the safety ring 12, precisely where these spacing elements 26 are formed: in this manner there is a very limited risk of some bridge element 14 breaking.

[0032] Regarding radial stress, the appendage 30 of the safety ring 12, joining with the dragging teeth 18 of the cap 10, prevents an excessive movement in the transverse sense between cap 10 and safety ring 12: in this manner there is a very limited risk of some bridge element 14 breaking. In practice, this important result is obtained when an internal surface of the dragging tooth 18 comes into contact with an area of the external side surface of the appendage 30, preventing that such movement is that which causes the breaking of some bridge element 14.

[0033] It is also noted that the dragging teeth 18 have as objective, when the cap 10 is opened by rotation, to separate in the most uniform manner possible the safety ring 12 from the cap 10, in consequence breaking the bridge elements 14. This is achieved by their slanted side 22 which during the rotation slides over slanted sides 23 of the grooves 20 of the safety ring 12.

[0034] From the above description the characteristics of the screw cap 10 with safety ring 12 of improved reliability, the object of the present invention, are evident, as are evident the related advantages, among which we mention:

- simple and reliable use;
- easy and safe assembly;
- contained moulding costs, with respect to the

known art.

[0035] Finally, it is clear that the screw cap 10 with safety ring 12 of improved reliability thus conceived is susceptible to numerous modifications and variations, all forming part of the invention; in addition all of the details are interchangeable by technically equivalent elements. In practice any material may be used, of any size or dimension, according to the technical requirements.

[0036] The scope of protection of the invention is consequently defined by the attached claims.

Claims

1. Screw cap (10) with safety ring (12) of improved reliability, of the type in which said safety ring (12) in its upper part is connected to a lower end of said screw cap (10) by frangible bridge elements (14), said cap (10) having in its lower part at least one dragging tooth (18), in correspondence of which, in the upper part of said safety ring (12), a recess (20) is foreseen for each dragging tooth (18), **characterised in that** said safety ring (12) is provided, at an internal lower end, with an annular appendage (30) of frustoconical shape with lower, broader base, said broad base being united to said lower end of said safety ring (12).
2. Screw cap (10) according to claim 1, **characterised in that** a slope of said appendage (30) side surfaces, with respect to the axis of said safety ring (12), is low.
3. Screw cap (10) according to claim 1, **characterised in that** said safety ring (12) is of substantially cylindrical crown shape.
4. Screw cap (10) according to claim 3, **characterised in that** a height of said frustocone of said annular appendage (30) is approximately equal to that of said cylindrical crown of said safety ring (12).
5. Screw cap (10) according to claim 3, **characterised in that** said bridge elements (14) connect said cap (10) to an upper end of said cylindrical crown of said safety ring (12).
6. Screw cap (10) according to claim 5, **characterised in that** said bridge elements (14) are uniformly distributed along the circumference.
7. Screw cap (10) according to claim 1, **characterised in that** at least one said dragging tooth (18) has a slanted side (22) with respect to the axis of said cap (10), while the other side (24) is substantially parallel to the axis of said cap (10).

8. Screw cap (10) according to claim 7, **characterised in that** said recess (20) has a slanted side (23) with respect to the axis of said cap (10) with a slope approximately equal to that of said slanted side (22) of said dragging tooth (18), while the other side (25) is substantially parallel to the axis of said cap (10).
9. Screw cap (10) according to claim 8, **characterised in that** the dimensions of said recess (20) are larger than the dimensions corresponding to said dragging tooth (18), such that when said cap (10) is connected with said safety ring (12) by said bridge elements (14), there exists a clearance between dragging tooth (18) and groove (20).
10. Screw cap (10) according to claim 1, **characterised in that** below said cap (10), or above said safety ring (12), there is foreseen at least one spacing element (26).
11. Screw cap (10) according to claim 10, **characterised in that** said spacing elements (26) are more than one and are uniformly distributed along the circumference.
12. Screw cap (10) according to claims 3 and 10, **characterised in that** said spacing elements (26) are formed on said cylindrical crown of said safety ring (12).
13. Screw cap (10) according to claim 1, **characterised in that** said dragging teeth (18) are more than one and are distributed in a uniform manner along the circumference.
14. Screw cap (10) according to claim 1, **characterised in that** said screw cap (10) is internally provided with a threading (16).
15. Screw cap (10) according to claim 1, **characterised in that** it is produced through plastics moulding.

Patentansprüche

1. Schraubverschluss (10) mit Sicherheitsring (12) mit verbesserter Zuverlässigkeit von der Art, in der der Sicherheitsring (12) an seinem oberen Teil mit einem unteren Ende des Schraubverschlusses (10) durch zerbrechliche Brückenelemente (14) verbunden ist, wobei der Verschluss (10) in seinem unteren Teil zumindest einen Schleppzahn (18) aufweist, wobei in Übereinstimmung mit diesem in dem oberen Teil des Sicherheitsrings (12) eine Ausnehmung (20) für jeden Schleppzahn (18) vorgesehen ist, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Sicherheitsring (12) an einem inneren unteren Ende mit einem kreisringförmigen Fortsatz (30) von kegel-

stumpffdriniger Form mit einer unteren, breiteren Basis versehen ist, wobei die breite Basis mit dem unteren Ende des Sicherheitsrings (12) vereint ist.

2. Schraubverschluss (10) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** eine Schräge der Seitenflächen des Fortsatzes (30) in Bezug auf die Achse des Sicherheitsrings (12) gering ist.
3. Schraubverschluss (10) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Sicherheitsring (12) im Wesentlichen die Form einer zylindrischen Krone aufweist.
4. Schraubverschluss (10) nach Anspruch 3, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** eine Höhe des Kegelstumpfes des kreisringförmigen Fortsatzes (30) annähernd gleich ist wie die der zylindrischen Krone des Sicherheitsrings (12).
5. Schraubverschluss (10) nach Anspruch 3, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Brückenelemente (14) den Verschluss (10) mit einem oberen Ende der zylindrischen Krone des Sicherheitsrings (12) verbinden.
6. Schraubverschluss (10) nach Anspruch 5, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Brückenelemente (14) gleichmäßig um den Umfang herum verteilt sind.
7. Schraubverschluss (10) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** zumindest einer der Schleppzähne (18) eine abgeschrägte Seite (22) in Bezug auf die Achse des Verschlusses (10) aufweist, während die andere Seite (24) im Wesentlichen parallel zur Achse des Verschlusses (10) liegt.
8. Schraubverschluss (10) nach Anspruch 7, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Ausnehmung (20) eine abgeschrägte Seite (23) in Bezug auf die Achse des Verschlusses (10) mit einer Steigung aufweist, die annähernd gleich ist wie die der abgeschrägten Seite (22) des Schleppzahnes (18), während die andere Seite (25) im Wesentlichen parallel zur Achse des Verschlusses (10) liegt.
9. Schraubverschluss (10) nach Anspruch 8, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Abmessungen der Ausnehmung (20) größer sind als die Abmessungen, die dem Schleppzahn (18) entsprechen, so dass, wenn der Verschluss (10) mit dem Sicherheitsring (12) durch die Brückenelemente (14) verbunden ist, ein Zwischenraum zwischen dem Schleppzahn (18) und der Nut (20) vorhanden ist.
10. Schraubverschluss (10) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** unter dem Verschluss (10) oder über dem Sicherheitsring (12) zumindest ein

Abstandshalteelement (26) vorgesehen ist.

11. Schraubverschluss (10) nach Anspruch 10, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Abstandshalteelemente (26) mehr als eines sind und gleichmäßig um den Umfang herum verteilt sind.
12. Schraubverschluss (10) nach den Ansprüchen 3 und 10, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Abstandshalteelemente (26) an der zylindrischen Krone des Sicherheitsrings (12) ausgebildet sind.
13. Schraubverschluss (10) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Schleppzähne (18) mehr als einer sind und auf eine gleichmäßige Weise entlang des Umfangs verteilt sind.
14. Schraubverschluss (10) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Schraubverschluss (10) innen mit einem Gewinde (16) versehen ist.
15. Schraubverschluss (10) nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** er durch Formung von Kunststoff hergestellt wird.

Revendications

1. Couvercle à visser (10) doté d'une bague de sûreté (12) d'une fiabilité améliorée, du type dans lequel ladite bague de sûreté (12) dans sa partie supérieure est raccordée à une extrémité inférieure dudit couvercle à visser (10) par des éléments en forme de pont pouvant se rompre (14), ledit couvercle (10) comportant dans sa partie inférieure au moins une dent d'entraînement (18), à laquelle correspond, dans la partie supérieure de ladite bague de sûreté (12), un évidement (20) qui est prévu pour chaque dent d'entraînement (18), **caractérisé en ce que** ladite bague de sûreté (12) est pourvue, au niveau d'une extrémité inférieure interne, d'un appendice annulaire (30) de forme tronconique avec une base inférieure plus large, ladite base large étant combinée à ladite extrémité inférieure de ladite bague de sûreté (12).
2. Couvercle à visser (10) selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce qu'**une pente desdites surfaces latérales dudit appendice (30), par rapport à l'axe de ladite bague de sûreté (12), est faible.
3. Couvercle à visser (10) selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** ladite bague de sûreté (12) présente une configuration en couronne essentiellement cylindrique.
4. Couvercle à visser (10) selon la revendication 3, **caractérisé en ce qu'**une hauteur dudit élément tron-

conique dudit appendice annulaire (30) est approximativement égale à celle de ladite couronne cylindrique de ladite bague de sûreté (12).

5. Couvercle à visser (10) selon la revendication 3, **caractérisé en ce que** lesdits éléments en forme de pont (14) raccordent ledit couvercle (10) à une extrémité supérieure de ladite couronne cylindrique de ladite bague de sûreté (12).
6. Couvercle à visser (10) selon la revendication 5, **caractérisé en ce que** lesdits éléments en forme de pont (14) sont répartis de façon uniforme le long de la circonférence.
7. Couvercle à visser (10) selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce qu'**au moins une dite dent d'entraînement (18) présente un côté incliné (22) par rapport à l'axe dudit couvercle (10), tandis que l'autre côté (24) est essentiellement parallèle à l'axe dudit couvercle (10).
8. Couvercle à visser (10) selon la revendication 7, **caractérisé en ce que** ledit évidement (20) possède un côté incliné (23) par rapport à l'axe dudit couvercle (10) avec une pente approximativement égale à celle dudit côté incliné (22) de ladite dent d'entraînement (18), tandis que l'autre côté (25) est essentiellement parallèle à l'axe dudit couvercle (10).
9. Couvercle à visser (10) selon la revendication 8, **caractérisé en ce que** les dimensions dudit évidement (20) sont plus grandes que les dimensions correspondant à ladite dent d'entraînement (18), de telle sorte que lorsque ledit couvercle (10) est connecté à ladite bague de sûreté (12) par lesdits éléments en forme de pont (14), il existe un intervalle entre la dent d'entraînement (18) et la gorge (20).
10. Couvercle à visser (10) selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce qu'**au-dessous dudit couvercle (10), ou au-dessus de ladite bague de sûreté (12), il est prévu au moins un élément d'écartement (26).
11. Couvercle à visser (10) selon la revendication 10, **caractérisé en ce que** lesdits éléments d'écartement (26) sont en nombre supérieur à un et sont répartis uniformément le long de la circonférence.
12. Couvercle à visser (10) selon les revendications 3 et 10, **caractérisé en ce que** lesdits éléments d'écartement (26) sont formés sur ladite couronne cylindrique de ladite bague de sûreté (12).
13. Couvercle à visser (10) selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** lesdites dents d'entraînement (18) sont en nombre supérieur à un et sont réparties d'une façon uniforme le long de la circonférence.

14. Couvercle à visser (10) selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** ledit capuchon à visser (10) est doté à l'intérieur d'un filetage (16).

15. Couvercle à visser (10) selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce qu'**il est fabriqué par moulage de matières plastiques.

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Fig. 1

